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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 28, 2002

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## FCC RULES THAT VERIZON VIOLATED MERGER CONDITION

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today released an order ruling in favor of Global NAPs, Inc. ("Global NAPs") on a complaint alleging that Verizon Communications, Verizon New England, Inc., and Verizon Virginia, Inc. (collectively, "Verizon") had violated one of the conditions of the Commission's approval of the merger application of Bell Atlantic Corp. and GTE Corp. The condition requires Verizon under certain specified circumstances to permit requesting carriers to adopt in one state an interconnection agreement that was voluntarily negotiated in another state. The Commission concluded that Verizon should have allowed Global NAPs to opt into certain provisions of a Rhode Island interconnection agreement for use in Massachusetts and Virginia in accordance with the condition. The Commission, however, denied Global NAPs' claim for damages as being premature.

Action by the Commission, February 21, 2002, Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 02-59). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Martin.

File No. EB-01-MD-010

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